

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #97

Genesis 48:15-22

There were two things that Jacob did when he was dying which put him in Hebrews 11:21 –  
1) By faith he worshipped God; 2) By faith he blessed Joseph's sons. As we have observed from Jacob's life, he was old (47:28); he was sick (48:1) and he was dying (47:29).

**THOSE WHO ARE HONORED FOR THEIR FAITH DEFEND THE WORD OF GOD AND DO THE WILL OF GOD UNTIL THE END OF THEIR LIFE, EVEN WHEN THIS OPPOSES THE WAY SOME FAMILY MEMBERS THINK.**

Faithfulness to God can often be very lonely. There are times when standing for God's truth can rub family members the wrong way. But Jacob stayed faithful and it is this act of faith that puts him in the great faith chapter of Hebrews 11.

**NARRATIVE PART #1** - The contents of Jacob's blessing to Joseph's sons. 48:15-16

Verse 15 begins by saying that Jacob blessed Joseph and verse 16 says this blessing was on the lads. What this indicates is that judicially, in the mind of Jacob, both Manasseh and Ephraim are completely identified with Joseph to the extent that they are represented in him (I Chronicles 5: 1-2). Here is a beautiful picture of a father making a judicial calculation of identifying the children of the son to be his own sons. This is a picture of God's grace, in which God the Father calculates us as full sons.

**Description #1** - This was the God with whom his fathers walked . 48:15a

The idea of God walking with someone could be best understood in terms of God walking along through life with someone (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 224). What Jacob finally understood is that God, who had walked with Abraham and Isaac, had also walked through life with him.

**Description #2** - This was the God who had shepherded him. 48:15b

The word "shepherd" is one that carries with it the idea of feeding, tending and caring (Ibid, p. 773). Dr. S. L. Johnson said that he believed that there was a good possibility that this verse is what led David to write the 23rd Psalm (*Genesis*, Study #63, p. 5). The realization that Jacob had was that God had shepherded him all of his life and was still shepherding him at the time of his death.

**Description #3** - This was the God whose angel redeemed him. 48:16a

The word "redeem" is a Hebrew word that means to buy back (Gesenius, p. 151). Now Jacob was well aware of the subject of angels because he had personally seen them in dreams (28:12); he had seen them in life (32:1-2); and he personally wrestled with one all night (32:24).

In the Hebrew text, there is an article “the” before the noun “angel” which means Jacob is thinking of a particular angel who had delivered him from “all” evil. There is only one angel capable of doing this and that is “the angel of the LORD” Who is none other than Jesus Christ. Truth is, Jacob’s life did have its share of evil in it. In fact, some 17 years prior to this, he told Pharaoh that his life had been filled with evil moments (47:9). But as he neared death, he realized that there was One who would deliver him from all evil, the Son of God.

When it came time for the Apostle Paul to die, he said the same thing that the Lord would deliver him from every evil deed (II Timothy 4:18). When it comes time for us to die, reward winning faith keeps its focus on the redemptive work of the Grace and Mercy God found in Jesus Christ.

### **NARRATIVE PART #2** - The reaction of Joseph to Jacob’s blessing. 48:17-18

Joseph had carefully choreographed this moment by putting Manasseh the oldest on Israel’s right side and Ephraim the youngest on his left side (48:13). However, Israel purposely crossed his hands (48:14) and put his right hand on Ephraim and his left on Manasseh. Joseph was so upset by this that he actually grabbed his father’s hands and attempted to reverse them. In all reality, Joseph is attempting to change things because he does not know the Word or Will of God on this matter.

### **NARRATIVE PART #3** - The reaction of Jacob to Joseph’s response. 48:19-22

Here is a remarkable look at a very faithful father, who stands out in the Bible as being a faith hero. When his son tried to thwart the word of God, Jacob “refused” to let him. The word means Jacob was absolutely unwilling to change. By faith, he was standing his ground against his own son in his final hours of life because he is defending the Word of God and the Program of God even against the son he loved the most.

Jacob knew the program of God and he knew the younger would be greater than the elder. It was the same way with Ishmael and Isaac, with Esau and Jacob and now with Manasseh and Ephraim. It is that way with the first Adam and the second Adam. The blessings of God are not found in the first Adam, they are found in the second Adam, Jesus Christ.

**Verses 19-20** indicate that he knew God’s plan for Ephraim and for Manasseh. **Verse 21** indicates that he also knew God’s plan for himself, which was death. What we find in Jacob was a man truly focused on doing God’s will and worshipping God right until the moment he died.

There is a redeemer who will deliver you from all the evil you have ever committed. This redeemer was Jacob’s redeemer and He also can be yours. He is the second Adam, Jesus Christ. **Just as these blessings were conferred by crossing the hands, God’s blessings are conferred by Christ’s hands nailed to a cross.** Believe on Him and instantly you become a full son.

We need Jacob-type senior saints. We need senior saints who will demonstrate a confidence in God, who know the Word of God and who know that all evil sin may be forgiven in Jesus Christ and they believe this and defend this until they leave this earth.